

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 33

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to commend Elizabeth Nichols for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Nichols is one such estimable person who has been in the continuous employment of the State of Tennessee for the past sixty years, a remarkable tenure of industry to which virtually all others can only aspire; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as the administrative expert of the Robertson County Department of Children's Services' office, as she was for its predecessor, the Department of Human Services, and its predecessor, the Department of Public Welfare, Elizabeth Nichols has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community and to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the State's workforce, Mrs. Nichols accrued ten years of distinguished service with National Life Insurance Company and one year of employment with the Dean of Nursing at the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nichols' success as an employee of the State of Tennessee is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nichols is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, as is customary with genteel Southern women such as Mrs. Nichols, she is a tad bit reticent to respond to inquires about her age, yet she now approaches the dawn of her tenth decade of life with a proverbial spring in her step and a palpable vivacity of her presence,

and her sage wisdom reliably tells that each new day brings meaningful opportunities to serve others and enjoy life; and

WHEREAS, some years ago, "Miss Libby," as she is fondly known, gave passing consideration to capitalizing on an employee buy-out program the State of Tennessee was executing; however, upon learning her acceptance would mean the elimination of her position in the Robertson County office, she conveyed her decision clearly in her comment, "I may not be much, but I'm better than nothing and I will not leave Karen (her long-time colleague and friend) by herself!"; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Elizabeth Nichols is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her husband, Earl Nichols, and her two step-daughters, Debbie and Lissa; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nichols is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Elizabeth Nichols for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as an outstanding State employee and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.